



**Gold King Mine Release**  
**EPA HQ Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**  
**Operations Team Plan**  
**(August 16, 2015)**

On August 5th, an EPA and Colorado State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety team were working to investigate and address contamination at the abandoned Gold King Mine in San Juan County, CO. This work resulted in a large release of mine wastewater into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Estimates indicate that the release was approximately three million gallons that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal.

EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9 are responding to the incident. The Headquarters Emergency Operations Center (HQ EOC) has been activated at Level 1 for this incident. HQ EOC tasks include:

- coordination of Regional staffing and funding needs;
- participation in data calls to interpret water and sediment data;
- exploration of various authorities and funding sources that might be available to the Agency in responding to this incident;
- determination of which public drinking water systems use the Animas River as a water source, if these systems have alternate sources for intake water, and how many days' supply they have; and
- development of messages for the public-facing website on the suitability of the water for various uses (drinking, recreation, agricultural, livestock).

EPA has development a public-facing website for this response:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

**Battle Rhythm**

Operating hours for the EPA HQ EOC will be 0930 – 1900 EDT. EOC Spot Reports will be issued daily with more frequent updates as needed. The HQ EOC anticipates that the Daily Management Report will be ready at 1300 EDT daily.

**Attachment 1**  
**Communications Plan: Gold King Mine Release**  
**Operational Period: August 16 0930-1900**  
**24/7 EOC Contact Information: 202-564-3850, eoc.epahq@epa.gov**

This Communications Plan reflects staffing for August 16

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See Below (Remote)	Finance Desk		
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